

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 168645
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00
EUR-12 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AGR-01 /109 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:JHLEWIS:JZ
APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH
AF/EPS:DSMITH (DRAFT)
AID/FFP:GFRAZIER (DRAFT)
AFR/SFWA:DSHEAR (DRAFT)
EB/IFD/ODF:FNASH (DRAFT)
EB/ORF/FPD:SJOHNSON (DRAFT)
USDA/OGSM:GPOPE (PHONE)
-----014681 040030Z /64
P 032342Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168645

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, EAID, SG

SUBJECT: SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE FOR SENEGAL

REFS: (A) DAKAR 4707, (B) STATE 1606071

1. DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY REVIEWING YOUR RECOMMENDATION THAT
SENEGAL BE MADE ELIGIBLE FOR SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE
(SSA) ON AN URGENT BASIS. TO ASSIST REVIEW OF YOUR
RECOMMENDATION, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF EMBASSY WOULD
PROVIDE DEPARTMENT WITH THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION
ON SENEGAL'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION AND FOREIGN
DEBT SERVICING. ECONOMIC INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE
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PAGE 02 STATE 168645

TO DEPARTMENT ON SENEGAL IS NOT SUFFICIENT IN DETAIL
TO ALLOW US TO DETERMINE SERIOUSNESS OF SENEGAL'S FOREIGN
EXCHANGE SITUATION.

2. AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE
FOR SENEGAL WOULD REQUIRE A SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL
APPROPRIATION AND EXEMPTION FROM THE LAW PROHIBITING THE

TRANSFER OF SSA. CONGRESS IS VERY RELUCTANT TO APPROPRIATE BOTH DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (AS IN THE SDP) AND SSA TO THE SAME COUNTRY AND MAY MAKE IT LEGALLY IMPOSSIBLE IN THIS YEAR'S AUTHORIZATION BILL. USG IS, HOWEVER, GIVING THOUGHT TO POSSIBILITY OF SOME FORM OF ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES FACED WITH SEVERE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS, BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO PREDICT HOW THAT WILL COME OUT AT PRESENT.

3. TO EASE SENEGAL'S CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION, MAY BE POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER PL 480 TITLE I FOR FY 1979. HOWEVER, PROGRAM MUST COMPETE WITH LIMITED WORLD WIDE AVAILABILITIES AND MUST BE CONSIDERED ON BASIS SOUND ECONOMIC CASE, YET TO BE DETERMINED AS NOTED PARA 1 ABOVE. WHATEVER PROGRAM IS ULTIMATELY CONSIDERED MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT DISINCENTIVES FOR LOCAL PRODUCTION AND WHETHER PROGRAM WOULD DISRUPT EXISTING US AND FRIENDLY COUNTRY COMMERCIAL MARKETS. ALSO MAY BE PROBLEM AS TO AVAILABILITY APPROPRIATE PL 480 COMMODITIES. FY 1979 LEVEL FOR SENEGAL TENTATIVELY SET AT DOLS 7 MILLION FOR TITLE III. STRONG JUSTIFICATION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO INCREASE ABOVE THIS LEVEL FOR TITLE I. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE168645
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JHLEWIS:JZ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780274-0866
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780798/aaaadexm.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2bc37c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DAKAR 4707
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2123767
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE FOR SENEGAL
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, EAID, SG
To: DAKAR
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2bc37c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014